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Terror Suspect Surrenders to Saudi Authorities

WASHINGTON [August 4, 2011] – On Wednesday, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior announced that alleged Al-Qaeda member Abdul Salam Abdulaziz Al-Faraj turned himself in to Saudi authorities. Al-Faraj was included on the Kingdom's 47 most-wanted list released earlier this year and submitted to Interpol for extradition. He will face the same legal proceedings used in similar cases.

"Saudi Arabia is fully dedicated to preventing terrorism in the Kingdom and around the world," said Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir. "The surrender of Al-Faraj serves as an example to other extremists to come forward or face the persistent efforts of Saudi authorities."

Saudi Arabia is committed to stopping terrorism in all its forms and continues to pursue the men, the money and the mindset that support this global threat. The Kingdom has forged partnerships with foreign governments and multilateral organizations to protect national security and reinforce counterterrorism strategies. Under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Sultan, Saudi Arabia remains an unwavering ally in combating terrorism and extremism worldwide.

For additional information on Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism efforts please visit www.saudiembassy.net and follow the Embassy on Twitter (@SaudiEmbassyUSA) or on the Embassy YouTube page.

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ISLAM

King calls for unity, charity during Holy Month of Ramadan

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz addressed the people of Saudi Arabia and all Muslims on the occasion of the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan, which began on August 1. In a joint statement, the King and the Crown Prince stated, "We ask Allah Almighty to make the advent of this month an opportunity for the Muslim nation to draw great lessons from this holy month; to seek rejection of schism and disunity; and to embody fraternity where the able would stand by the weak, the wealthy would support the needy and the oppressed will forgive the oppressor. As a result, they will build a tolerant society where people coexist peacefully, preserve the rights and respect the limits."

King Abdullah received telephone calls from several world leaders offering their congratulations on the advent of Ramadan. They included Jordan's King Abdullah II; Sudanese President Omar Hasan Al-Bashir; UAE President Sheikh Khalifah bin Zayed Al-Nahayan; Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifah Al-Thani; Bahraini Heir Apparent Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifah; Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah; and Moroccan King Mohammed VI.

MWL conference in Makkah concludes

A conference entitled "The Muslim World: Issues and Solutions," organized by the Muslim World League (MWL), concluded in Makkah on July 26. Several sessions were held over three days involving discussions on the economic and social challenges in the Muslim world and ways in which the Islamic religion can help address them. In a speech, King Abdullah highlighted the Saudi strategy of fighting terrorism by promoting Islam's moderation. He called on Muslim organizations and intellectuals around the world to cooperate in formulating a working program for tackling common problems and spreading the true message of Islam. At the end of the conference, the participants released a final statement that commended King Abdullah's initiative for dialogue between followers of religions and cultures and hailed Saudi Arabia's national dialogue process, holding it up as a model for other nations. It also called upon the MWL to go forward with the establishment of the Muslim World Commission for Dialogue.

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. RELATIONS

Rodeo Exercise concluded in U.S. with participation of Saudi Air Force

The "Rodeo Exercise 2011" was recently concluded at Lewis McCord Base in Washington state with the participation of aircraft from the Royal Saudi Air Force. A closing ceremony was held on the occasion attended by Commander of the U.S. Military Air Transport Service Gen. Raymond Jones. Participants in the exercise commended the performance of the Royal Saudi Air Force and the high precision with which its pilots implemented the air operations.

FOREIGN AID

IIROSA sponsors more than 1,200 surgeries

The International Islamic Relief Organization of Saudi Arabia (IIROSA), an affiliate of the Muslim World League (MWL), has sponsored 1,212 open-heart surgeries and angioplasties performed on youths in several Muslim countries, said IIROSA Secretary General Dr. Adnan bin Khalil Basha. In a press statement, Basha noted that the figure includes 797 surgeries in Yemen; 200 in Egypt; 73 in Morocco; 71 in Kazakhstan; 43 in Syria; and 36 in Pakistan. Basha said that the surgeries have been supported by volunteer doctors from around the world.

Djibouti, Syria gifted with hundreds of tons of dates

Saudi Ambassador to Djibouti Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz Al-Nofal handed over 10,000 cartons containing 200 tons of dates on July 28 to the Executive Secretary of Djibouti's National Bureau for the Relief of Refugees, Alami Othman Younes. The aid was given as a gift from the Kingdom to the people of Djibouti, especially those currently suffering from the effects of drought.

On August 2, Saudi Arabia handed over 424 tons of dates to the World Food Program (WFP) at the Saudi Chancery in Damascus. According to Saudi Ambassador to Syria Abdullah Al-Aifan, 300 tons of dates will be used as part of the WFP's emergency response to the drought in Northeastern Syria, while 124 tons of dates will go to the WFP's school nutrition project.

UNRWA thanks Saudi Arabia for donations to Palestinians in Gaza

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has thanked the Kingdom for donating enough food aid to feed 56,000 Palestinians, as part of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Campaign for the Relief of the Palestinian People in the Gaza Strip. In a statement, the UNRWA said, "The generous donation by the Kingdom, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, provides poor families in the Gaza Strip with basic foods, including flour, rice, sugar, cooking oil, and legumes, to alleviate their daily sufferings."